

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3786

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012

WOMEN IN ARMED FORCES

Raghavan Shri M. K.;Sahu Shri Chandulal Chandu Bhaiya

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to recruit more women officers for non-combat duties to relieve male officers from combat / Non-combat as duties in the armed forces;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken adequate measures to encourage rural women to join the armed forces across the country including the State of Chhattisgarh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether any special women recruitment drive has been carried out in rural areas and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3786 FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2012

(a) & (b): In the Armed Forces, women are recruited as officers within the overall authorized strength of the officers' cadre. Filling up of vacancies of officers (from eligible women and men candidates) is a continuous and an ongoing process and is done on merit on all India basis.

(c) & (d): A number of steps have been taken to attract the talented youth, both women and men, to join the Armed Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. The tenure of SSC officers has been increased from 10 years to 14 years. A total number of 750 posts of Lt. Colonel have been upgraded to Colonel towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-I). Further, 1896 additional posts in the ranks of Colonel, Brigadier, Major General and Lieutenant General and their equivalents in the other two Services have been upgraded towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-II). The implementation of recommendations of the VI Central Pay Commission with substantial improvement in the pay structure of officers of Armed Forces has made the Services more attractive.

The Armed Forces have also undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.

(e) Women, in Armed Forces, are inducted as officers on all India merit basis alongwith men candidates, irrespective of state, region, caste or religion. All aspiring candidates including women meeting the eligibility criteria are encouraged to apply from all over the country including rural areas.